

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAR ES 02612 030836Z

13

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R 030700Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6038

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USUN NEW YORK 562

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 2612

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, US

SUBJECT: US PUBLIC STANCE ON PORTUGUESE AFRICAN COLONIES

REF: A. DAR ES SALAAM 2608; (NOTAL; B. LUSAKA 1570 (NOTAL)

1. AFTER REVIEW OF ANOTHER SUBJECT (DAR ES SALAAM 2608), DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN MALECELA TURNED TO RECENT FOUR POWER MEETING AT BUKAVU WHERE LEADERS ATTENDING DISCUSSED DECOLONIZATION OF PORTUGUESE COLONIES IN AFRICA. MALECELA SAID, SINCE WE ARE BEING FRANK, I BELIEVE I SHOULD ADVISE YOU THAT MANY LEADERS IN AFRICA TODAY BELIEVE US IS ADVISING PORTUGAL TO GO SLOW ON DECOLONIZATION OF ITS COLONIES IN AFRICA. THIS MAY BE SIMPLY MALICIOUS RUMOR SPREAD BY ENEMIES OF US. IF US WISHES TO SCOTCH THIS RUMOR AND AT SAME TIME RAISE ITS STATUS MARKEDLY IN THE EYES OF AFRICAN LEADERS, HOWEVER, IT SHOULD MAKE NOW A STATEMENT REAFFIRMING ITS PLEASURE AT AND SUPPORT TO INDEPENDENCE OF PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN COLONIES. NOT
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PAGE 02 DAR ES 02612 030836Z

ONLY SUBSTANCE OF STATEMENT IMPORTANT, MALECELA SAID,

BUT TIMING, MAKING STATEMENT WITHIN NEXT COUPLE WEEKS.

2. REPLIED US RECORD IN SUPPORT DECOLONIZATION IN AFRICA OVER THE YEARS CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL. BEFORE MILITARY COUP OUSTED CAETANO IN PORTUGAL, US HAD PRIVATELY URGED PORTUGUESE TO RID THEMSELVES OF COLONIES. SINCE COUP, US HAS BELIEVED IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL IN VERY TENUOUS POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL TO PUBLICLY APPEAR TO BE PUSHING ONE OR ANOTHER POLICY ON PORTUGUESE. FURTHER, PORTUGUESE SEEMED TO BE MOST EAGER TO RID THEMSELVES OF AFRICAN COLONIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND NEEDED NO PRODDING FROM US OR ANYONE ELSE TO DO SO. NEVERTHELESS, SAID APPRECIATED MALECELA'S FRANK ADVICE AND WOULD FORWARD HIS THOUGHTS TO WASHINGTON.

3. COMMENT: BELIEVE WE WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO HEED MALECELA'S ADVICE ON THIS MATTER. US STATEMENT NOW IN SUPPORT OF INDEPENDENCE FOR PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN COLONIES WOULD GO LONG WAY, APPARENTLY, TO ALLAY AFRICAN SUSPICIONS TO CONTRARY AND WOULD BE SAYING NO MORE THAN PORTUGUESE THEMSELVES HAVE PUBLICLY SAID. AMBASSADOR WILKOWSKI'S RECOMMENDATION IN THIS REGARD THUS APPEARS MOST TIMELY (LUASAKA REFTEL.)
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